



IN MEMORIAM

Associated Professor Racho Stefanov Stoev, PhD

(17.04.1956 - 05.11.2025)

Racho Stefanov Stoev was born on April 17, 1956 and passed away on November 5, 2025 at his home in Sofia after a short illness.

Racho Stoev studied at the Department of Biology (Biology and Environment Protection) of the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” where he graduated with honors in 1983. Due to his excellent achievements as a university student he was appointed directly as a research associate in the Institute of Morphology in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (predecessor of IEMPAM-BAS) without any entrance competition.

A great part of his research work is focused on the investigation of the processes of growth and development as well as sexual maturation and the influence of social and economic conditions and living standards of the family such as income, education, employment, etc. His research on the topic formed the basis of his PhD thesis “Anthropological characteristics of adolescents – physical development and sexual maturation in conditions with the socio-familial environment“ which he defended successfully in 2007 at IEMA-BAS.

In 2012 he was promoted in Associated Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Anatomy, which he headed in the period 2015 – 2022. He was a member of the Editorial Board of the scientific journal “Acta Morphologica et Anthropologica”.

A particular interest in his research was the characterization of the various anthropological types inhabiting the territories of Bulgaria and the Balkans. In these studies, Assoc. Prof. Stoev successfully applies the methods of mathematical taxonomy and contributes significantly to deepening the knowledge and understanding of the processes related to biological and cultural diversity in the region. His research interests includes also human ecology, historical anthropometry and secular trend, ethnic anthropology, including anthropogenesis and ethnic dermatoglyphics, demography. This led him to specialize in many anthropological centers abroad during his scientific career - in the USSR, Poland, Greece, Russia.

His intellectual curiosity and interest in knowledge and science did not wane over the years, and in 2024 he enrolled in History at Sofia University, which unfortunately he did not manage to complete.

Associated Professor Racho Stefanov Stoev was respected and recognised anthropologist in Bulgarian and European scientific societies. He is the author and coauthor of over 50 scientific publications. He participated in many national and international scientific forums and maintained good personal and working relations with colleagues from Russia, Belarus, Poland, Greece, Hungary, Serbia, etc. He was a member of the European Anthropological Association, Bulgarian Anthropological Society, Bulgarian Anatomic Society, Polish Anthropological Society (1989-1990).

Assoc. Prof. Racho Stoev was young at heart, an excellent scientist, colleague and friend, known with his humility and humanity, devoted his life to understanding the man as biological and social being.

Yanitsa Zhecheva